

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1 and 3, as best understood, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hadaway (U.S. Pat. No. 3,923,315). Claims 2 and 4, as best understood, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sink (U.S. Pat. No. 5,511,886).

The Examiner made of record the references cited in the Second Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed October 25, 2007. However, there was an error on page 1 of the IDS. In paragraph 3, the reference made to "Documents AB and AD" should read --Documents AB and AC--.

The invention recited in claim 1 is different from that in Hadaway and Sink in the relationship between the projection and the shaft.

The invention disclosed in Hadaway has projections 7 and 8 which are in sliding contact with the surface of the shaft as shown in Fig. 5 and 6. Therefore, a sliding resistance is generated between the projection and the shaft.

On the other hand, the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 2, has a slight gap intervening between the surface of the projection disposed at a root of the seal lip and the shaft surface because a distance between the surface of the projection

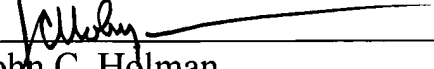
and a center of the shaft is slightly larger than a radius of the shaft. Therefore, resistance is not generated between the projection and the shaft which advantageously distinguishes the present invention over Hadaway and Sink.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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